



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Overview

Napa County Adult Correctional System Master Plan

Jail Replacement Project

Background

In November 2004, upon direction from the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive Officer convened a Criminal Justice Committee that included representatives from all law and justice and public safety departments as well as the Napa Superior Court, Health and Human Services Agency and the City of Napa Police Department. The committee was tasked with the development of an Adult Correctional System Master Plan to identify and address the County's jail and other correctional needs over the next 20 years. After more than four years of work, the Criminal Justice Committee released its recommendations in November 2008.

The Master Planning process revealed that the current County Jail:

- Does not have enough beds to satisfy the projected need in 2025.
- Does not have the proper mix of beds to satisfy today's need. A jail must have beds that accommodate those with health issues, those with mental health issues, and both male and female offenders with differing levels of security.

New County Jail

The Criminal Justice Committee recommended, and the Board of Supervisors approved, that the County plan for a jail facility to meet the 2025 bed projection numbers of 366 beds, with central services built to serve up to 500 inmates should the jail need to expand in the future beyond 2025. This is about 100 fewer beds than are projected would be necessary without the implementation of evidence-based practices, including the Community Corrections Service Center and other cognitive behavioral treatment programs designed to address individual offenders' criminogenic needs and reduce the likelihood of reoffense. The current facility has 277 beds. The current plan calls for maintaining the jail facility in a mid-block position and for consultation with the City of Napa regarding street level elevations and aesthetics.

In addition, the Board of Supervisors has agreed with the Criminal Justice Committee's recommendations that the new or renovated facility include a few key design features:

- A Podular Direct Supervision Model, where cells are arranged around an open day room with space for inmates to watch television or participate in other activities. Corrections staff are in the housing unit, interacting with the inmates. The focus is on active rather than passive supervision.
- Video visitation, where visiting stations are set up in public access areas of a jail facility and visitors are connected to inmates who are on the other end of the system in their housing units. This eliminates the need to move inmates around the facility, reducing staffing requirements, and helps keep contraband out of the secured area of the facility. Video visiting stations can also be set up in other community buildings, such as libraries or police stations, to eliminate the need for individuals to travel to the jail facility for visitation.
- A mental health unit, with dedicated beds and trained staff.

The Board of Supervisors has directed County staff to continue to pursue replacing the current Hall of Justice and jail facility with a new jail facility of approximately 180,000 building gross square feet at the current downtown Napa site. Maintaining a jail facility in the Downtown area will:

- Maintain access to the newly built Criminal Courts building through a secure underground tunnel, eliminating the need for inmate transportation services and increasing public safety by keeping inmates confined for transporting purposes.
- Remain within reasonably close proximity to the Public Defender and District Attorney's offices, Probation Department, Health and Human Services and other social services and public services, including the availability of public transportation.
- Avoid the need to site a jail in a new location, which is often a difficult process.